

JUDGE REVA BECK BOSONE

i 1895 - 1983

i First Woman Judge in Salt Lake City

i Elected State Representative from Carbon County in 1932

Reva Beck Bosone was the first woman judge in Salt Lake City. Her accomplishments paved the way and set an example for generations of women to come. In the year 2000, nine hundred women practiced law in Utah. There were fourteen female state judges, one female Utah Supreme Court Justice, one female federal district court judge and one female bankruptcy court judge.

Reva was born on April 2, 1895 in American Fork, Utah. She graduated from American Fork High School and Westminster Junior College. In 1919 she received a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley, and in 1930 she graduated with a Bachelor's of Law from the University of Utah—the fourth woman to do so. In March of that same year, Reva became the eleventh woman admitted to the Utah State Bar. Later, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree by Westminster College.

Along with an education, Reva wanted a family. She married Joseph P. Bosone in 1929. A year later they were blessed with a baby girl and named her Zilpha Teresa Bosone. Reva enjoyed her role as wife and mother.

In the same year her daughter was born, Reva started her own law office while her husband completed law school. In 1931 she and her husband established their joint practice under the name of Bosone and Bosone.

Reva was involved in politics most of her life. She was elected to the Utah House of Representatives from Carbon County in 1932. She received a greater number of votes in winning her seat than was garnered by any other office seeker in the county. While in the House of Representatives she sponsored New Deal reform legislation and played an important role in the passage of a minimum wage law and a law to limit the work hours of women and children. She was instrumental in the passage of the Utah Child Labor Constitutional Amendment with help from Francis Perkins and Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 1936 Reva was elected Municipal Judge in Salt Lake City where she served three four-year terms. She began with cases from police and traffic courts then moved to criminal courts. She enforced unpopular traffic fines and gathered money to improve roads for Salt Lake City. She referred alcoholics to Alcoholics Anonymous and sought a government program for alcoholic intervention.

In 1940 Reva and Joseph were divorced. She remained very active in politics and in life. She received numerous awards. She was inducted into Utah's Hall of Fame for her contributions to the rehabilitation of alcoholics and she received the Distinguished Service in Government award from U.C. Berkeley. In 1973, Reva was presented the first annual Susa Young Gates award for raising the standards of women in Utah and in 1975 she was honored as one of ten outstanding mothers in the history of Utah by Famous Mothers in American History 1778-1976. Reva Beck Bosone died on July 21, 1983 leaving a great legacy and an example for women everywhere.